

President's Message

Gwen Coe

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Dear OMEP Members:

OMEPE-USNC is an organization of actively engaged members and committed leaders. Our membership continues to increase and members are requesting opportunities to assume leadership roles in the organization. I am proud to be a part of such a vibrant and dynamic group of professionals. Here is a *sample* of member activities and upcoming events:

- ❖ Tsunami Appeal collects \$4000 from OMEPE-USNC members.
- ❖ Gene Geist redesigns and manages OMEPE-USNC website-www.omepe-usnc.org.
- ❖ Leah Adams serves as keynote and several members present at Warwick Early Years Conference-Coventry, England.
- ❖ President Coe attends Early Literacy Round Table-Oxford, England.
- ❖ Lita Haddal presents Norwegian Child Care at the ACEI/OMEPE breakfast.
- ❖ Edna Ranck represents OMEPE-USNC at the World Forum in Montreal.
- ❖ Blythe Hinitz, Helen Botanerescue, and Milly Cowles participate in Spotlight Forum at NAEYC Professional Development Institute.
- ❖ Lillian Katz will keynote World OMEPE conference in Havana, Cuba July, 2005. Several OMEPE-USNC members will travel to Cuba to present and attend conference.
- ❖ Edna Ranck chairs the International Film Festival at NAEYC December, 2005.
- ❖ Lita Haddal chairs the Elections Committee.
- ❖ Judi Estes chairs the 0-3 US report for World OMEPE.
- ❖ Joanne Hoffman chairs the Bylaws revision committee.
- ❖ John Surr serves as liaison to Children's Rights Advocacy efforts in Washington.
- ❖ Dodie Sailor chairs the Children's Day committee which is celebrated November 20.
- ❖ Kate Kolchin serves as our representative to the United Nations.
- ❖ Gwen Coe, Edna Ranck, Amy Lin Tan facilitate Online Interest Forum, Fall, 2005.
- ❖ Carol Darcy chairs the membership committee.
- ❖ Johnetta Morrison chairs the poster session committee for NAEYC December, 2005.
- ❖ Dr. Gelengul Haktanir, OMEPE-Turkey National President, and Dr. Tulin Guler will present at NAEYC December, 2005 on Turkish early childhood practices.

Remember that membership renewals will be mailed in September for the 2006 year. Your **membership renewal** and continued support of OMEPE-USNC is **very important** and **vital** to the work that is accomplished in supporting and advocating for children's rights. Invite a colleague to join OR **give a gift subscription** (for only \$20.00 without the journal). Looking forward to your continued participation. We have established several committees and have many ways for each of you to participate more actively in the organization.

The website has loads of interesting information about OMEPE events! You can also contact our webmaster, Gene Geist, by sending him a message from our website to give him your news, thoughts and ideas. Or contact him directly at geist@ohio.edu Web Address: <http://omepe-usnc.org>



*Newsletter Editor:
Lita Haddal
WI Child Care
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Send all submissions
and correspondence to
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U.S. National Committee of the World Organization for Early Childhood Education

Organization Mondiale pour l'Éducation Préscolaire (OMEP)
Organización Mundial para la Educación Preescolar (OMEP)

Gene Geist has graciously consented to manage our website which he has also redesigned. It is classy, colorful and user-friendly. If you have suggestions please send them to both Gene (geist@ohio.edu) and to Gwen Coe (coe@uwplatt.edu).

Find information from your region, upcoming events, international links, research reports, Children's Day activities and more at <http://www.omep-usnc.org>. A marvelous addition is the Early Childhood Research & Practice

(ECRP), a bilingual Internet journal on the development, care, and education of young children.

OMEP-USNC is extremely grateful to Nancy Quisenberry for her many years of service and skill in maintaining our presence on the web.

Thank you Nancy!!

International Sessions at NAEYC Conference

Plan now to learn more about early childhood in Scandinavia at the NAEYC Annual Conference & Expo in Washington, D.C., December 7-10, 2005. Attend the 2-hour session "Scandinavian Child Care: Pioneers in Design of Universal Preschools," presented by OMEP members Pirkko Zweifel and Lita Haddal. Pirkko is a native of Finland, now working for the State of Wisconsin Child Care Section. Lita has taught in and directed prechools in Norway for many years. Join fellow OMEP-USNC members at the annual OMEP Membership Meeting, the Interna-

tional Social Conversation Hour and Poster Session, the OMEP Film Festival and numerous other sessions and events revolving around international themes and issues.

A schedule of international sessions and events will be published in the OMEP-USNC Fall Newsletter.

For more information on the NAEYC 2005 Annual Conference and Expo, visit www.naeyc.org or phone, (800) 424-2460, extension 11211.

Recommended Reading & Resources

Child Care on Top of the World.

Amy Laura Dombro & Pernille Weis-Fogh. *Young Children*, January 2004. Read about child care in northern Norway on the island of Spittsbergen in the region hosting the OMEP World Assembly 2006.

An Electronic Age Story: Building Global Relationships Through the Internet.

Diane E. Levin & Olav Østvold. *Young Children*, July 2002. Early childhood practitioners met through an early childhood e-mail listserv. Sharing problems and solutions became a dynamic and transforming experience.

The Human Rights of Infants and Toddlers: A Comparison of Child-Care Philosophies in Europe, Australia, New Zealand, and the United States.

J. Ronald Lally. *Zero to Three*, January 2005. The way societies define the basic rights of small children determines the quality of care they receive.

Message from the Editor

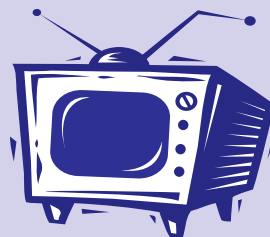
As Chair of the Elections Committee, I had the opportunity to phone many OMEP members during the past few weeks. As we chatted, I asked them about their sphere of influence and their roles as teacher-educators. Several felt their students were not on the “global” wavelength; forming a student chapter of OMEP would be too much of a stretch for them. This got me thinking about how we so often apply our OMEP advocacy for children outside our country boundaries and forget to apply it first at home in our every aspect of educating others about children and healthy childhoods.

While not necessarily leading new early childhood education students to an active role in OMEP, teacher-educators *can* incorporate the principles of OMEP guidelines into their curriculum on appropriate guidance and quality environments for children.

Six years ago OMEP International met to draft the Global Guidelines for Early Childhood Education. Later OMEP-USNC submitted an addendum to the guidelines regarding the media environment of children. The OMEP Film Festival this coming fall at the NAEYC Conference will address the need to protect children from negative media influence and how to select films for children.

On page 14, you will find research results which confirm the need to regulate the media environment of children. The dangers for children and the threat to their authentic play experiences are as real as those of third world children suffering play deprivation.

Advocacy for children must begin at home in a very real sense.



-Lita Haddal, editor

Elections Committee

Committee Members:

Lita Haddal, Chair

Carol Darcy

Susan Miller

Johnetta Morrison

The committee has begun assembling candidates for the upcoming election. The following board positions are up for election: President, Vice-President, Region 2 Representative, Region 4 Representative.

The committee has been fortunate to already have secured four highly qualified candidates to run for the offices of president and vice-president. We also have two eager candidates for the Regional Representative slots. We are seeking a second name for each of those positions to complete the ballot. Recommendations from the membership would be appreciated.

The ballots will be sent out in early fall with a short bio, photo, and vision statement for each candidate.

The candidates so far are:

President

Candidate #1 Edna Ranck

Candidate #2 Nancy Brown

Vice-President

Candidate #1 Carol Darcy

Candidate #2 James Hoot

Region II Representative

(IL, IN, MI, OH, WI)

Candidate #1 Lynn Staley

Candidate #2

Region IV Representative

(AL, FL, GA, MI, NC, SC)

Candidate #1 Maryann Manning

Candidate #2

Newsletter Editor

Lita Haddal edited the OMEP-USNC Winter 2005 Newsletter, her second issue as newsletter editor. It was a huge issue of forty pages due largely to the Tsunami Appeal and the need to publicize it. Over six pages of the issue were dedicated to tsunami information and advocacy news. Contributors were very much appreciated. They were: Alicia Pagnano, Amy Lin Tan, Blythe Hinitz, Cathy Mogharreban, Edna Ranck, Gwen Coe, Leah Adams, Lenore Wineberg, and Kate Kolchin.

Gwen Coe spent a great deal of time updating the email addresses of members and tracking the procedures for printing and distributing the newsletter. The newsletter was generously printed and mailed out by the Council for Professional Recognition in Washington, D.C., where our contact is Elizabeth Pascucci, Publications Department Manager. Milly Cowles, new OMEP-USNC Treasurer, has been very diligent about updating members' mailing information. With the new OMEP-USNC website construction, there is exciting potential for posting the newsletter swiftly in its whole format or as individual topical postings with ensuing updates.

The next newsletter will begin to be compiled following the Spring Board Meeting with completion and distribution expected mid-June. Included in this issue will be: reports from Regional Representatives, a message from the president, committee reports, initiative updates, and the Call for Proposals for the OMEP Poster Session.

The OMEP Executive Committee met in Santiago, Chile in April, hosted by the World President Selma Simonstein. In addition to the Executive Committee meetings, all members served as speakers at a special conference on The Preparation of Those Who Care for and Educate Small Children in the 21st Century.

President Selma Simonstein reported that she is very pleased with the hard work that the Cuban OMEP Committee is putting forth for the 2005 World Assembly July 11-15 in Havana. She expects the conference to be quite successful and suggested that in terms of going to Cuba, we must not look at what is the reality of life under Castro, but the instead look at the reality of progress for early childhood education. The deadline for poster and session proposals is May 31.

Three potential alliances for OMEP were discussed and will be put before the World Assembly in Cuba in July: The Centre of Excellence for Early Childhood Development (CEECD) based at the University Montreal that is prepared to communicate in the three OMEP languages; the Latin American research organization called CINDE that is supported by/aligned with UNESCO and UNICEF ; and the Global Alliance sponsored by NAEYC.

The generosity of the USNC and Canada OMEP contributions to the OMEP Tsunami Appeal was noted. The Executive Committee cannot determine the specific project that will be identified for the OMEP Tsunami Appeal funds until the World OMEP Treasurer has received all of the pledged money. The funds will be used for a project in conjunction with UNICEF and will be one

for which it is clearly identified that it was funded by OMEP. Meanwhile, Joan Waters, Regional Vice President for Asia and the Pacific, is working with UNICEF personnel and with our UNICEF representative in New York, Kate Kolchin, on the OMEP-UNICEF project for training of personnel for preschool programs. UNICEF will fund that project.

In our own region Ginette Beausejour, president of OMEP Canada, reports that they have a number of projects underway. They have received excellent media coverage for their Alphabet Primer for Peace (in French) and it is being widely distributed, primarily in Quebec. OMEP Haiti members continue to work hard under the reality of the situation in their country.

Future plans for World OMEP include meeting in Tromsø, Norway August 6 - 11, 2006 and in Mexico City in July 2007.



Leah Adams - Vice President for North America and the Caribbean
leah.adams@emich.edu

OMEP-USNC
Spring Board
Meeting
Washington, DC,
May 14, 2005

North America & the Caribbean

This is the news from Region I. It includes various ways members have participated in important care and education programs for children and how they have shared their international experiences and programs with other educators. For the years 2004-5, Region I has 30 members. All members who had emails were contacted to request information for this newsletter and 7 responses were received. Four emails were returned undeliverable. All Region I members are encouraged to update their email and phone addresses and to send relevant news to apagano29@yahoo.com.

Kate Kolchin, Carol D'Arcy and Anne O'Neill represented OMEP at a meeting of the NGO Working Group on Education at the UNICEF House in New York City on April 21st. During their meeting Anne provided information and photos about her recent trip to Peru and her visit to an excellent day care center in Miraflores, Peru, graciously arranged by Sra. Maribel Cormack Lynch, Vice-President of the National Committee of OMEP-Peru. Carol plans to go to the World Forum in Montreal in May.

In November, 2004, Diane Levin, Wheelock College Professor, attended the Working Forum Belfast, "Building Bridges: Healing Communities through Childcare," where she served as the leader of the seminar held for the Working Team. The Working Forum, a smaller version of the World Forum on Early Care and Education focuses on a single topic. Working Team members were invited to participate because they are living in communities affected by violence and conflict, including Albania, Nepal, Northern Ireland, Papua New Guinea, the Philippines and South Africa. They shared information about the nature of conflicts occurring in their countries, how they see the vio-

lence affecting children and families, and programs and policies they have helped create to support the needs of children and families in the midst of violence. This is the beginning of efforts by the World Forum Foundation (part of Child Care Exchange) to build a global network of early childhood educators who share information and resources on these issues. Diane will continue participate with the Working Team at the World Forum Montreal in May. The Working Forum Belfast was co-sponsored by the World Forum Foundation and NIPPA (the early childhood organization of Northern Ireland). NIPPA has invited Diane to return to Northern Ireland in June where she will be teaching a master class on supporting children's learning in violent times as well as conducting a workshop at NIPPA's annual conference.

Suzanne Miller, Associate Professor of Education the State University of New York College at Oneonta (SUCO) spent part of her recent sabbatical in Chuuk, Micronesia, a group of islands in the Pacific, where she had served as a Peace Corps Volunteer in the late sixties. As a Peace Corps Volunteer she had helped bring Head Start to Micronesia and in her return to the islands she enjoyed teaching a course to Head Start staff and visiting many centers throughout the Truk Lagoon. She and her partner, Walter vom Saal, made a research on the "Strengths and Struggles of a Pacific Island Peoples," which they connected to the UN Millennium Development Goals. This year Suzanne has presented the research in several venues including the Tri-County Chapter of New York AEYC and the SUCO Faculty Research Program.

Zanna McKay, Assistant Professor of Education and Reading at SUNY College at Oneonta (SUCO) is a brand new member of OMEP.

She recently returned from a two-year assignment in Mali, West Africa, where she was teaching students at the American International School of Bamako, Mali. Each year she took her students to live for a week with the Dogon people. The cliff-dwelling Dogon are one of the last of the indigenous peoples who have not been converted, but have maintained their worldview for hundreds of years. Her students shared their beliefs and values with Dogon children their age and Zanna wrote about these experiences. She presented, "Learning from the Dogon: Culturally-Relevant Teaching" at the SUCO faculty convivium on April 13th.

In October, 2004, Alicia Pagano, was an Invited Professor at Queen Rambhai Bharni Rajabhat University in Chantaburi, Thailand. She presented a seminar on "Curriculum Issues When a College Becomes a University." In addition, she dialogued on current academic issues with faculty at the campus Early Childhood Teaching Center. In February, 2005, Alicia retired from the education faculty at New Jersey City University (NJCU). At retirement she inaugurated a special scholarship fund to assist NJCU students to study abroad thus providing opportunities to expand global understanding. Tax-deductible gifts can be given in her name to "New Jersey City University Foundation" for "Student Study Abroad Scholarship Fund" and sent to John Nevin, VP University Advancement, 2039 Kennedy Blvd. Jersey City, NJ 07305-1597.

Alicia Pagnano - Region 1 Representative

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He prayed-

It wasn't my religion.

He ate-

It wasn't what I ate.

He spoke-

It wasn't my language.

He dressed-

It wasn't what I wore.

He took my hand-

It wasn't the color of mine.

But when he laughed-

It was how I laughed,

And when he cried-

It was how I cried.

-Amy Maddox,

Underneath We're All the Same.



www.kimandjason.com. Copyright Jason W. Kotecki



Conference Presentation on OMEP

“Norway- 2006! Here We Come!”, a PowerPoint presentation on child care in Norway and an invitation to participate in the OMEP World Assembly to be held in Norway in 2006, was my presentation at the annual OMEP Breakfast at the ACEI Conference in Washington, DC, on March 25, 2005. Included in the presentation were photos from my work with child care center staff development in Norway and a personal greeting from Liv Cranner, President of OMEP-Norway. The Norwegian Embassy in Washington provided two full-color brochures and maps of Norway for participants. The Children’s Day Song and promotional information and a membership brochure were also placed at each place setting. The opportunity to join OMEP was given to attendees with 10+ new members joining.



Contact with regional members

Email was used to update members on NAEYC international events, the Tsunami Appeal and follow-ups, and the upcoming Regional Representative vacancy on the OMEP-USNC Board. Updated email addresses were obtained from and exchanged with Milly Cowles, Treasurer. Those without email were mailed paper copies of the communication.

Cochairing the OMEP Poster Session

Together with Johnetta Morrison, I am again organizing the OMEP Poster Session to take place in Washington, D.C., on December 9, 2005, at OMEP's International Social Conversation Hour at the NAEYC Annual Conference. A Call for Proposals was included in the 2004 Poster Session booklet and will appear in the OMEP-USNC Newsletter Summer 2005 and on the OMEP-USNC webpage. The theme from the 2004 Poster Session will be repeated: *The Young Years: Zero to Three, Preschool and Primary Care and Education*. The deadline for proposals is October 15, 2005.

Film Festival Committee

I am investigating the potential for using films from the Norwegian Film Institute (<http://www.norway.org.uk/culture/film/festivals/Film+Festivals.htm>) (<http://www.nfi.no/english/>) and the Norwegian International Children's Film Festival (<http://www2.filmweb.no/kristiansandkino/barnefilmfestivalen/english/>) for the OMEP Film Festival to be held at NAEYC in Washington, DC, in December, 2005. Besides showing films that have a reputation for excellence, this would offer OMEP-USNC the opportunity to publicize and raise interest in the OMEP World Assembly and International Seminar to take place in Tromsø, Norway, August 8-11, 2006. Other

ideas are also being investigated, i.e., contacting the celebrity narrators from UNICEF's "What's Going On?" video series to invite them to participate in OMEP's film festival.

Resolution & Advocacy Committee

· OMEP Children's Day continues to evolve. The new OMEP-USNC website has space designated for Children's Day updates. The intended posting of activity ideas on a monthly basis to the OMEP website has languished. More input is needed from members in order to make this successful.

· The World OMEP Tsunami Appeal took place from February 1-March 20, 2005. In my capacity as newsletter editor and advocacy committee member, I led the publicity campaign executed collaboratively by the OMEP-USNC Board. Edna Ranck and I created documents for distribution by members to media outlets and personal networks.

Election Committee

I am chairing the Election Committee for 2005. The committee has nominated excellent candidates. The ballots will go out to members in late summer/early fall with short biographies, photos and vision statements from each candidate.

OMEP-USNC Newsletter

The OMEP-USNC Winter 2005 Newsletter, which I edited, was a huge issue of forty pages due largely to the Tsunami Appeal and the need to publicize it.

Lita Haddal -Region 2 Representative
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Resolution and Advocacy Committee:
Dodie Sailor, Lita Haddal, Edna Ranck

Resolution and Advocacy Committee Goals for 2005

1. Promote and expand OMEP-USNC Children's Day in order to:
 - a. increase respect and improve conditions for all children,
 - b. work towards the U.S. passage of the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) and the implementation in the classroom of some of these rights, and
 - c. increase membership by reaching potential members and providing them with something tangible on which to work.
2. Continue as OMEP members and as an organization to work to:
 - a. support the first World OMEP Work Program: Birth to Age Three
 - b. improve conditions for all children in the United States and worldwide.
3. Create a sub-committee on publicity or public relations to
 - a. create documents for the media and an email groupserv of media contacts for distributing OMEP news quickly
 - b. to form policy guidelines, procedures, and strategies for future appeal efforts.

Activities

World OMEP Work Program: Birth to Age Three

Amy Lin Tan of Region 8 reports that The 2004 National Zero to Three Training Institute took place in Sacramento last December. Amy was one of the 25 scholarship recipients chosen from California early educators to attend the Institute. She is also a certified trainer by WestEd for its Program for Infant Toddler Caregivers (PITC). In fact, WestEd is offering a series of PITC training across California for home visitors. This is a new effort in addition to other programs funded by the Child Development Division of the State Department of Education. In sum, all these events and activities certainly contribute to the support for children 0 to 3.

More information on USNC's support of the first World OMEP Work Program: Birth to Age Three will be in a report for World OMEP by Judy Estes, Georgianna Duarte, Judy McConnell, and Jean Simpson.

The European version of the report is already on OMEP's new website.

USNC-OMEP's Children's Day-November 20

After writing several updates for the OMEP-USNC website, it was decided to develop a Children's Day packet instead. This will include bi-monthly themes along with activities to honor all children and to promote a better understanding of their needs and rights as human beings.

Plans are underway for a Children's Day proposal for the 2005 OMEP Poster Session at NAEYC. Please share your ideas with this committee as soon as possible on ways to celebrate children on Nov. 20th and throughout the year.

Children's Day Stickers will be available again for NAEYC.. They will include OMEP's website.

OMEP Tsunami Appeal 2005

Special thanks to OMEP-USNC members who contributed over \$4000 to this Tsunami Appeal.

1. An article incorporating information on UNICEF relief efforts with the goals of the OMEP Tsunami Appeal as stated by World OMEP President Selma Simonstein was written by Lita Haddal for general distribution.
An appeal letter, also by Lita Haddal, was sent to all the regional representatives with instructions for forwarding the letter to news outlets in the states in their regions.
2. A press release, by Edna Ranck, was distributed to all regional representatives. Instructions for contacting news outlets in the states in their regions were given.
3. The press release and article were sent to Roger Neugebauer, of Child Care Information Exchange magazine, for posting on the Electronic newsletter, *Exchange Everyday*.
4. A sample appeal letter to friends and email contacts by Edna Ranck was sent to all board members.
5. An Appeal Update was sent to all board members by Kate Kolchin who, together with Carol Darcy, liaised with UNICEF Program Officer Nurper Ulkuer regarding the UNICEF-OMEP collaborative project to come out of the Appeal.
6. Six pages of the OMEP-USNC Winter Newsletter 2005 were dedicated to the Tsunami Appeal. The promotional materials and Kate's update were included.
7. Letters on the status of the Appeal fund were sent to all members in Regions 2 and 3 by their regional representatives, Lita Haddal and Edna Ranck, and copies sent to board members before the closing date of the Appeal. Other Regional Representatives were encouraged to follow suite.

Thanks to those of you who helped make this report possible, to all of you who supported OMEP in contributing to the Tsunami Appeal and those who presented materials at various conferences (or in other ways) supporting advocacy.

We still need regional reps to find one person who would help with ideas for Children's Day projects or working with publicity.

Resolutions and Advocacy Chair

Dorothy Sailor

Fullerton College

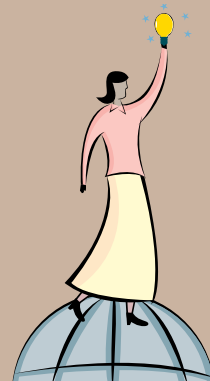
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May 14, 2005





The World OMEP Tsunami Appeal took place from February 1-March 20, 2005. The Tsunami Appeal was a true grassroots effort on the part of OMEP-USNC. No time was allowed for normal designation of a committee or assignment of leadership duties. Communication with board members and members occurred through email correspondence. In her capacity as newsletter editor and advocacy committee member, Lita Haddal spearheaded the publicity campaign executed collaboratively by the OMEP-USNC Board. Along with Edna Ranck, she created documents for distribution by members to media outlets and personal networks. Six pages of the OMEP-USNC Winter 2005 Newsletter was dedicated to the Tsunami Appeal.

Milly Cowles, OMEP-USNC Treasurer, collected the donations, which reached over \$4,000 at the close of the appeal period.

The following articles and communication pieces were created for the Tsunami Appeal for OMEP-USNC members' use:

- Appeal flyer
- Press Release
- Article for ExchangeEveryDay national e-letter
- Instructions for contacting the media in each region (www.congress.org/congressorg/dbq/media)
- Update on UNICEF collaboration project
- Instructions for craft projects to support worldwide relief efforts

For more information regarding the Tsunami Appeal, please refer to the Committee for Resolution & Advocacy and the Winter 2005 issue of the OMEP-USNC Newsletter.



OMEP thanks the following generous contributors:

Bright Star @ Mid-Coast Pres Ch
Com. Child Care Council of Sonoma Co
Sylvia M. Pecsénye
The Childrens Garden
Rainbow Children
Dr. Leah Adams
Dr. Jerry Aldridge
Kathryn Aschlimn
Dr. Bettye M. Caldwell
Mrs. Judith A. David
Dr. Carol Brunson Day
First Presbyterian Church Preschool Program
Lita Haddal
Darlene Harrison

Child Dev Centers/ Irvine CA
Dr. Sally J. Kilmer
Ms. Ardath E. Lilleland
Maryann Manning
Janet B. McCracken
Dr. Susan A. Miller
Mrs. Margaret Mueller
Mrs. Dorothy Sailor
Dr. Noriko Saito
Mamie Sellers
Dr. Marilyn M. Smith
Mr. John V. Surr
Ms. Mary E. Wehking
Dr. Lenore P. Wineberg

Looking for a conference roommate to share expenses or to make your conference experience more companionable?

Phone Lita Haddal at (608) 224-5388 to make a connection with another OMEP member planning to attend the NAEYC conference in December.

Fighting Homesickness

If you have lived abroad, you will have experienced homesickness for favorite foods. Making them is not always easy if translating measurements into the metric system, temperatures into Celsius or finding substitutions for ingredients not commonly found outside the U.S. There are two websites that can be accessed worldwide that can help alleviate those problems!

Visit www.allrecipes.com to find your favorite dishes in cups or grams. This site will also automatically adjust the recipe to suite the number of servings desired.

Visit www.your-msn-emotions.com/recipes to find recipes that duplicate your favorite name-brand restaurant foods from the U.S. This can also be a wonderful way to share American recipes with friends in other countries.

Free Books Available

The Literacy Empowerment Foundation, a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization has available free books for kindergarten through third grade. LEF distributes over two million books per year to the 17,000 schools that it serves all across the USA.

If you or any educator you know would like to find out how to receive free books for young students, please go to www.lefbooks.org.

These books will be available on a first come, first serve basis.

For more information and an order form, go to: <http://LEFbooks.org> or phone (717) 791-6210.

Literacy Empowerment Foundation
6323 Salem Park Circle
Mechanicsburg, Pa. 17050
Phone: (717) 791-6210
Web site: <http://LEFbooks.org>
E-mail: info@literacyempowerment.org

*If you actually look like
your passport photo,
you aren't well enough
to travel.*

-Vivian Fuchs.

Opportunities



**Parents
spend 60
times more
time per
day with
their TV
than
conversing
with their
children!**

Television Viewing May Interfere With Important Family Interactions and the Developmental Needs of Babies and Children

On average, American families report that-

- Time spent between parents and children in meaningful conversation per day – 5-1/2 minutes
- Time spent by adults per day watching TV – 4 hours
- Time spent by children per day watching TV – 4 hours, 42 minutes
- TV is on in the home 7 hours and 40 minutes per day
- Families who “always” or “often” watch TV while eating meals – 40 %
- Percentage of households with children age 0-6 – 99%
- Percentage of households with 3 or more TVs – 50%
- Percentage of children ages 8-16 with a TV in their bedroom – 56%
- Percentage of children age 6 and under with a TV in their bedroom – 36%
- Average annual TV viewing time adults and children spend – 2 months per year
- By the age of 70, an average adult will have watched 7-10 years worth of television.
- By the age of 65, the average adult will have seen 2 million commercials.
- Per year, the average viewer will witness at least 10,000 rapes, assaults and murders.
- By the age of 18, the average child will have witnessed 200,000 violent acts.
- 4- to 6-year-old children who would rather spend time with TV than Dad – 54%
- The average child spends more time watching TV than in school (1,023 vs. 900 hours).
- Percent of screen time children age 7 and older spend without their parents – 91 %
- The average child is exposed to at least 40,000 television commercials per year.
- Programs designed for children are five to six times more violent than adult TV.
- In prime time shows there are 3-5 violent acts per hour. In Saturday morning kids shows there are 20-25 violent acts per hour.
- Hours of screen time shown to negatively affect academic achievement – 10 or more per week
- Number of hours kids age 2-17 spend viewing TV – 20 or more per week, which is more time than is spent in any other activity besides sleeping

Potential Effects Of Uncontrolled Television Viewing For Families And Children

In addition to negative effects on family interactions and relationships, uncontrolled television viewing can have harmful effects on children’s learning, thinking, attitudes, decision-making, values, social behaviors and physical health. TV viewing is replacing activities in children’s lives that their adults would rather they be doing (things like playing with friends, physical activity, fresh air, reading, homework, chores, spending time with their parents).

Time spent watching TV takes away from important social interactions with family and peers. Likewise, TV time takes away from other developmental activities and decreases time spent in projects, sports, music, art or other activities that require time, attention, problem solving, or practice to become skillful.

Research studies are showing actual changes in brain development and structure from television viewing, which harm a child's ability to learn and function in a school setting. TV discourages and replaces reading. Reading requires much more concentration and critical thinking than television, and is far better for a child's brain development in the areas of language and thought. The more TV time children spend, the worse they perform in school, with lower motivation and creative ability.

Similar to brain wave patterns while watching TV, the body's metabolic rate goes even lower than during rest. This means that a person would burn fewer calories while watching TV than when just sitting quietly doing nothing.

Children who consistently watch more than 10 hours of TV per week are much more likely to be overweight and at greater risk of associated health problems. TV promotes a sedentary lifestyle and discourages exercise. An inactive life style sets bad habits and leads to poor physical fitness now and down the road.

Psychological research has identified 3 major effects of seeing violence on television:

1. Children may become less sensitive to the pain and suffering of others
2. Children may be more fearful of the world around them
3. Children (and as they grow into adulthood) are more likely to behave in aggressive or harmful ways toward others.

Sources:

American Academy of Pediatrics

American Medical Association

American Psychological Association

The Center for Media Literacy

TV-Turnoff Network

National Institute of Health

National Institute of Mental Health

National PTA

Center for Disease Control

Parents' Television Council

National Television Violence Study

The National Institute on Media & the Family

Stanford University Quantitative Study of Society



For more information visit the Alliance for a Media Literate America at: www.AMLAinfo.org or phone, 1-888-775-AMLA.

Impact of Media Environment on U.S. Children

Compiled by
Mary Wood,
University of
Wisconsin
Extension Family
Living Program.
Young Families,
June 2005.

Call for Proposals

OMEP Poster Session 2005

Theme: The Young Years: Zero to Three, Preschool and Primary Care and Education



OMEP Poster Session
OMEP International Social Conversation Hour
NAEYC 2005 Annual Conference
Washington, DC
December 9, 2005

This poster session is designed to address the goals listed below. Posters should present information that focuses on these goals. All proposals undergo a blind review process. Proposals will be evaluated on overall quality as well as the degree to which they support the goals of the OMEP poster session.

Goals of the Poster Session:

It is intended that this event will provide opportunities for OMEP members to:

1. Access a wider forum of professionals for sharing and discussing research, curriculum ideas, and teaching practices related to Early Childhood Education.
2. Become more aware of current state, national and international policy issues and how they affect children, families, and communities.
3. Examine replicable strategies for working on issues involving the global welfare of children.
4. Inspire others to make a relevant difference in the lives of Early Childhood educators and the children they serve.

Session Format:

Poster sessions may present research, curriculum highlights, teaching strategies, policy issues, comparative studies, etc. Special attention will be given to presentations focusing on the theme and replicable initiatives.

Posters should be displayed on 2' x 3' poster board with a support brace attached to the back to hold it in an upright position on one half of a display table. A bifold poster display board may also be used. Space in front of the poster may be used for handouts or further display. These are general guidelines; variations may be negotiated.

Authors' Table—If you have published a book within the last two years and would like to have it displayed at the conference, please send a complete citation of the book so that it can be listed in the program. Authors are expected to provide copies of books for display and sale.

Submission Guidelines:

Please submit in electronic format via e-mail or FAX:

1. Cover page including:
 - A. Title
 - B. Author(s) contact information (names, addresses, phone numbers and email addresses).
Authors will be contacted via email.
 - C. Please indicate if authors are members of OMEP.
2. Proposal Description (1 page maximum) including:
 - A. Title
 - B. Goals of the conference to be addressed in this proposed session
 - C. Abstract

Submission Deadline: Proposals must be RECEIVED BY October 15, 2005.

Send Proposals to: E-mail: morrisonj@missouri.edu
FAX: 573-884-5550

Please direct questions via e-mail to: morrisonj@missouri.edu

The OMEP Poster Session and International Conversation Hour will be held on Friday, December 9, 2005, Washington, D.C. Time and location will be announced at a later date. Please refer to the fall issue of the OMEP-USNC Newsletter or the OMEP-USNC website for updated information.

On behalf of OMEP-USNC,

Johnetta Wade Morrison
314 Gentry Hall
Human Development and Family Studies
University of Missouri
Columbia, MO 65211-7040

Lita Haddal
Child Care Information Center
2109 S. Stoughton Rd.
Madison, WI 53716
lita.haddal@dpi.state.wi.us

During the OMEP Tsunami Appeal, you were asked to appeal to your "network" to give. How is that done? We sent out letters and news releases for you to use to let people know the importance and urgency of the project. But here's how it really happens...

March 23, 2005

Dear Nephew,

...Last Wednesday I told my knitting group [of college kids] about your mom's Early Childhood initiative for the 100,000 tsunami orphans. And I left the place with \$10.00. That encouraged me to mention it to my quilting friends the next day, and they dug into their purses for a buck or two – another \$14.00. Then my mother-in-law when I took her to the doctor. Then the people who hang around the coffee-maker during Sunday School. Anyway, in a week of hitting up friends for "a buck – or less", I have \$55.98. Good people, huh?! The fact is, most of them would probably give me ten if I asked. I'm too timid. Next time!

Love, Your Auntie

There will be a next time. That is the nature of OMEP. Children worldwide, at home and abroad, need help. The tsunami "appeal" was actually the "kickoff" of what will be an ongoing project. Were you too timid? Take courage and ask again.

*You-all means a race or section,
Family, party, tribe or clan;
You-all means the whole connection
Of the individual man.*

-You-All; The Richmond Times-Dispatch.



July 10-15, 2005

**Seminar Of The World Organization For
Preschool Education (OMEP)**

**7th International Meeting on Initial and
Preschool Education of The Latin Ameri-
can Center of References for Preschool
Education (CELEP)**

**World Assembly and Meeting of The
OMEP Executive
Havana, Cuba**

Contact: Ana María Siberio Gómez

Phone: (537) 202-2259

Fax: (537) 204 \-5242

Email: celep@rimed.cu / celep@ceniai.inf.cu

Email: omep2005@desoft.cu

Web: <http://www.loseventos.cu/omep2005>

Web: <http://www.omep.org.uk/>

September 28-October 1, 2005

**Kaleidoscope: Changing Images of
Childhood — Early Childhood Australia's
Biennial Conference**

Brisbane, Australia

Contact: Early Childhood Australia

Phone: + 61 7 3368 2644

Fax: + 61 7 3369 3731

Email: eca2005@ccm.com.au

Web: <http://www.eca2005.com/>

[homepage.html](http://www.eca2005.com/homepage.html)

December 7-10, 2005

**NAEYC (National Association for
the Education of Young Children)**

Annual Conference & Expo

Washington DC

Contact: NAEYC Conference Dept.

1509 16th St. N.W.

Washington DC 20036

Phone: 1-800-424-2460, ext. 11211

Fax: 1-708-344-4444

Email: conference@naeyc.org

Web: www.naeyc.org

Liv Cranner with Lita Haddal, OMEP-USNC
Regional Representative for the Great Lakes
Region, while visiting in Norway, 2003.

OMEP WORLD ASSEMBLY AUGUST 2006

Greetings from Norway! On behalf of OMEP-Norway, let me be the first to welcome you to next year's OMEP World Assembly, August 8-9, and International Seminar, August 10-11, in Tromsø. We are very excited about the conference.

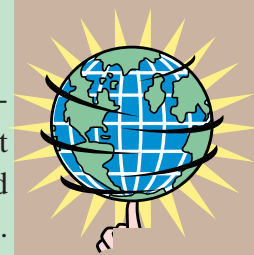
The conference theme is "The Little Big Discoverer" which deals with children 0-3 years of age, and the new research going on regarding those important years with practical applications. We hope to have lots of contact with the local day care centers and have been given the key to the city by the mayor.

Together with our co-sponsor, the University of Tromsø, we are planning a dynamic mix of research reports and hands-on workshops. Besides trips to centers, we will be offering sightseeing tours in the spectacular nature of northern Norway and Spittsbergen.

Come experience the Midnight Sun and the generous hospitality of the people of Tromsø. For those who have questions, please feel free to contact me at liv@cranner.com or visit the OMEP-Norway website at www.omep.no.

With all best wishes,

Liv Cranner, President, OMEP-Norway



International Conferences

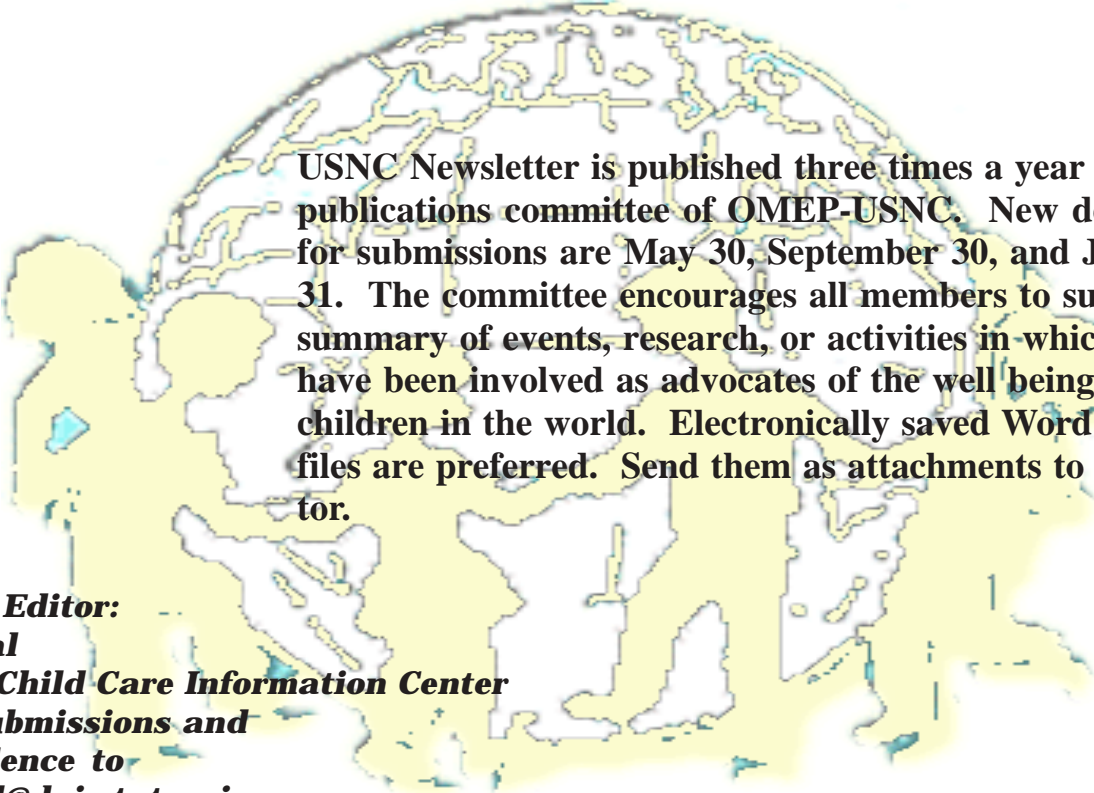


OMEP - U.S. National Committee
A Unit of Organisation Mondiale pour l'Education Préscolaire
World Organization for Early Childhood Education
c/o Dr.Gwen Coe, OMEP-USNC President
225 Washington Street
Platteville, WI 53818

Postage

Mailing Address

Publication Information

A large, faint background graphic featuring a globe with yellow and blue outlines. Overlaid on the globe are several yellow silhouettes of children in various poses, some holding hands, creating a global theme of childhood.

USNC Newsletter is published three times a year by the publications committee of OMEP-USNC. New deadlines for submissions are May 30, September 30, and January 31. The committee encourages all members to submit a summary of events, research, or activities in which you have been involved as advocates of the well being of the children in the world. Electronically saved Word or jpg. files are preferred. Send them as attachments to the editor.

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